Rajya Sabha on the 27th April, 1994 and state:

(a) whether Government have decided to introduced Palace on Wheel's type tourist trains on some routes;

(b) if so, the details of the routes on which such type of trains are to be introduced;

(c) whether the private sector has also been offered to run some of the rountes;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) to what extent the growth of foreign tourists is to be increased due to the introduction of new routes?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) to (e) It has been decided to introduce 'Palace on Wheels' type tourist train services on the following tourist circuits;

(i) Delhi - Jaipur-Agra-Gwalior-Jhansi (Khajuraho)- Varanasi-Lucnow-Delhi.

(ii) Bombay - Aurangabad (Ajaanta/Ellora) - Nanded - Secunderabad- Hyderabad - Pune.Bombay.

(iii) Calcutta - Gaya (Rajgir/Nalanda) - Varanasi (Sarnath) - Gorakhpur (Lumbini/Kushinagar) Bhubaneswar- Puri- Calcutta.

(iv) Goa (Madgaon) - Mangalore-Mysore (Belur/Halebid) - Hospet (Hampi) -Bangalore-Goa (Madgaon).

(v) Bangalore- Mysore- Madras-Kodaikanal Road-Kanniya Kumari-Trivandrum-Cochin - Mettupalayam-(Ooty)-Bangalore.

(vi) Delhi - Jaipur - Jodhpur - Jaisalmer- Sawai Madhopur- Bharatpur-Agra-Delhi.

(vii) Delhi-Jaipur-Udaipur-Ahmedabad-Veraval-Palitana-Delhi.

(viii) Madras-Pondicherry-Nagore-Karaikal-Velankini - Tiruchchirapalli- Madurai-Rameswaram - Thanjavur-Chidambaram-Madras.

While global bids have been invited from public and private sectors for the ownership, marketing and management of the tourist trains listed at S. Nos. (i) —(v), on the remaining circuits listed at S. Nos. (vi)— (viii) it has been decided to launch the tourist trains services in collaboration with the Tourism Development Corporations of Rajasthan, Gujarat and Tamil Nadu. Global bids were invited upto 25th July, 1994, for attracting investment in tourist train infrasructure. The initial response to the scheme has been encouraging. The measure has been planned to provide the infrastructural support for the implementation of the 'Action Plan' of the Ministry of Tourism to attract 5 million tourists by 1996-97.

Conversion of Railway track from Rongia to Murkongselek

2241. SHRI NYODEK YONGGAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plan to undertake conversion of metre-gauge tracks into Broad-gauge from Rongia to Murkongselek Railway Station of N.F. Railways via Rangapara North; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) Yes, Sir .

(b) This work is planned as a Ninth Five Year Plan project.

Non-payment of Salaries to Casual Labourers at Tiruchirapalli

2242. SHRI E. BALANANDAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the non-payment of salary to 11 (eleven) casual labourers employed in the Southern Railway Employees (Non-Statutory Recognised) Canteen being run incide the Divisional